

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms is funded under this bill and needs to replace several of their programs. The funds need to be there for them to assure that the ATF can enforce the law come January 1, 2000.

Removing the emergency appropriations for Y2k from the Appropriations bill and setting up a separate emergency spending measure delays agency efforts at fixing the Y2k problem. Also, a separate emergency appropriations bill could contain unrelated objectionable amendments just as last year's flood relief bill did. Politicizing Y2k emergency funds this way trivializes the problem and threatens our readiness for the new millennium.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Sanders amendment to H.R. 4104 which prohibits financial loans, guarantees, or other obligations from the Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF) in the U.S. Treasury unless authorized by the U.S. Congress. Congress must have a say in how billions of taxpayer dollars are distributed worldwide. Under the current system, the administration is given a blank check—in the form of the ESF—to bailout failed economies in developing countries. This blank check, however, has been used to support irresponsible, and undemocratic international economic policy. Congress needs to gain leverage so that it can force the administration to abandon short-sighted goals and unequitable practices.

The ESF has evolved from a fund with a specific mission to an unaccountable giant nourished by tax dollars. Created by President Roosevelt under the Gold Reserve Act, the ESF was intended to be used to stabilize the exchange value of the dollar. The billions of dollars recently taken from the fund to bailout Asian countries and the \$12 billion loan to Mexico in 1995 fall way outside of the realm of the ESF's original mission. A fund that no longer fulfills its original Congressional directive must be made accountable once again.

In addition to serving a financial purpose, ESF loans symbolically demonstrate American support for regimes, such as the Mexican regime that was bailed out in 1995. Loans with such international political and economic significance should require more than just the Administration's backing. The ESF currently has no direct accountability to the American people.

It is unwise for these funds to be distributed without Congressional approval. Each year on this floor we debate appropriations worth millions of dollars. We are shirking our responsibility to the American people by accepting unilateral executive appropriation of billions of dollars every year from the ESF to developing countries. Congress needs to be able to voice the American people's concerns over the use of the ESF.

And Mr. Chairman, I have many concerns over the projects that the ESF is currently supporting. These concerns have a direct bearing on the lives of the hard-working people back in my district.

ESF loans are part of an international tax and transfer cycle that rescues irresponsible risk-taking international banks at the expense of American and foreign middle and lower-income taxpayers. The short-term economic recovery promoted by ESF bailouts, not to mention U.S.-subsidized IMF structural adjustment, ignores long-term economic and political instability. Instead of learning to make more sound investments, banks continue to take risks

knowing that they have a safety net. As a result there is a cycle of debt and rescue, subsidized by U.S. taxpayers. It is outrageous for wealthy international financiers and industrial moguls in developing countries to be saved time and time again by the hard-working people of America.

Congress needs to have the power to control the ESF so that lasting democratic regimes can be established and strengthened in countries benefiting from ESF funds. Under the present system, the ESF guarantees the solvency of insolvent institutions and unjust governments by continually bailing them out of crisis. The use of the ESF to support dictators in countries like Indonesia makes it obvious that Congress is needed to guarantee that the U.S. helps spread democracy and not corruption around the world.

Mexico in 1995 is a case in point in the use of the ESF to support corruption. The Mexican government purchased more than \$45 billion of bad debts from Mexican banks in 1995 with the aid of \$12 billion in ESF loans. Despite promising to eventually hold borrowers liable for the debts, the government has permanently absorbed the debt burden, agreeing to rescue the very financial elites that control the government. The likely result is that the \$45 billion will be directly transferred from Mexican and American taxpayers to the politically and economically elite in Mexico, accentuating the class divisions that plague that society. Congress must have the power to insure that ESF loans are not given to countries that perpetuate corrupt political and economic regimes, such as Mexico.

ESF loans are part of a larger pattern of irresponsibly short-sighted international financial bailouts subsidized by U.S. taxpayers. Currently members can voice their feelings about funding for the IMF and other multilateral development banks. We deserve to also have our voice heard on the appropriation of billions of tax dollars to foreign countries through the ESF. I strongly urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST) having assumed the chair, Mr. DREIER, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4104) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

STEVE SCHIFF AUDITORIUM

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on National Security be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3731) to designate the auditorium located within the Sandia Technology Transfer Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the "Steve Schiff Auditorium", and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3731.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the initial request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3731

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Congressman Steve Schiff represented the First Congressional District of New Mexico in Congress from 1988 to 1998 with honor and distinction.

(2) Mr. Schiff chaired the Subcommittee on Basic Research of the Committee on Science emphasizing protection and improvement of America's economic and military strength into the 21st century through the support of a robust national science and technology infrastructure.

(3) Mr. Schiff was a tireless advocate of facilitating the transfer of technologies developed at federally supported institutions into the commercial sector.

(4) Mr. Schiff supported technology transfer efforts at Sandia National Laboratory, located in the First Congressional District of New Mexico, including its cooperative research and development programs, which have benefited the people of New Mexico and the Nation as a whole.

(5) Mr. Schiff's contributions should be acknowledged with a fitting tribute within the district he so selflessly served.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION.

The auditorium located within the Sandia Technology Transfer Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and known as Building 825, shall be known and designated as the "Steve Schiff Auditorium".

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the auditorium referred to in section 2 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Steve Schiff Auditorium".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. REDMOND) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3731, a bill to designate the auditorium located within the Sandia Technology Transfer Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico as the "Steve Schiff Auditorium."

It is a privilege to bring this bill to the floor today. This bill is a fitting tribute to the late Steve Schiff, who represented New Mexico's first congressional district, which includes Sandia National Laboratory, for nearly 10 years.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Basic Research, Steve Schiff set a standard of commitment, furthering

national science and technology. Naming the auditorium for Mr. Schiff memorializes Steve and his legacy of support for the scientific community of New Mexico and the United States. Steve Schiff lived a full life of achievement that epitomized service to the local community and to the Nation at large.

As a young man, Steve enlisted in the Air Force and eventually became a full colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

As a young attorney, he worked as an assistant district attorney for Bernalillo County and ultimately rose to become the district attorney.

Mr. Speaker, Steve Schiff had a long and admirable career in public service, and we have a number of our distinguished colleagues who would like to speak in tribute to Mr. Schiff.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN), our senior Representative.

(Mr. SKEEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, as Members know, our citizens of the great State of New Mexico mourned the death of Congressman Steve Schiff earlier this year. Steve was one of the most distinguished colleagues of this honorable body we proudly call the "people's" House of Representatives.

Changing the name of the auditorium at Sandia Technology Transfer Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico to the Steve Schiff Auditorium will provide New Mexicans and all who visit the center with a continuing tribute to this great Congressman, Steve Schiff.

Steve was dedicated to his constituents, and he worked hard to represent their interests in Congress. All of us remember Steve Schiff for caring so much, for trying so hard and for doing so much for his district, our State and country.

As chairman of the House Committee on Science Subcommittee on Basic Research, Steve led efforts to improve the Nation's economic and military strength into the 21st century through the support of robust national science and technology infrastructure.

Steve represented the first congressional district of New Mexico, which includes Sandia Laboratory. And as many of my colleagues know, Steve was a leading advocate for the use and transfer of technology developed at federally supported institutions for use in the private sector.

Naming this building in Steve Schiff's honor is most appropriate to recognize the memory of Steve and his contribution toward the enhancement of our quality of life through his support of technology transfer.

I ask my colleagues to strongly support this bill.

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Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from the

first Congressional District of New Mexico (Ms. WILSON).

(Ms. WILSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, it is a real pleasure to rise in support of this bill to rename the auditorium at the Technology Transfer Center of the Sandia National Laboratories the Steve Schiff Auditorium.

The first time I met Steve Schiff was about 3 weeks after I moved to New Mexico. We had a little reception at our home for our wedding, and my husband invited a friend of his from the Air National Guard named Steve Schiff. He was humble, he was focused on public service, he was a good and a great man, and it is often harder to be a good man than to be a great man.

In 1994, when he was up for reelection, he asked me to chair, or co-chair, his finance committee, and I quickly understood that his asking me to chair his finance committee had less to do with his needing my help than my needing his and his belief in stewardship of young people in this country and in the Republican Party in New Mexico.

At that time, I went into his campaign headquarters and was signing hundreds of letters to people who might donate to his campaign; and he walked in and he said, "Well, Heather, you know, you don't need to sign all those letters yourself. If you hadn't noticed, there are a lot of Steves around here." Well, the truth is that we all know that there are not many Steves around here. He was a unique and valued individual, an honored Member, former Member, of this body, and I know all of us miss him dearly.

He was known for his humility and also for his humor. He told many, many stories about service in the public interest; and he gave a good name to being a public servant. It is more difficult to be good than to be great, and Steve Schiff was an example to us all.

I would urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCREST). Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, on that, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule 1, further proceedings on this matter are postponed.

SAVE THE "E-RATE"

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the telecommunications industry is holding hostage the future of every single child in America. We all know our classrooms and libraries must be wired to the Internet for our children to have the skills to compete in the 21st century, but this must happen today if our children are to become the leaders of tomorrow. Over half of all jobs in the future will require computer and networking skills.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 specifically provided such services to our schools and libraries at discount rates. Over 30,000 schools and libraries have applied for this education rate, including 59 from my own congressional district. Yet now, just as this important program is getting off the ground, the telecommunications industry, which has profited by billions of dollars from this act, is reneging on its part of the deal, with the full support of the Republican leadership of this House.

It is shameful. We cannot let corporate greed put an end to this historic effort to meet a critical national need. I urge my colleagues to stand up on behalf of our children and support the E-rate.

[From the School Board News, June 9, 1998]
TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY, CONGRESS, AND THE FCC: DON'T PULL THE PLUG ON AMERICA'S CHILDREN

(By Anne L. Bryant)

When Congress was debating new telecommunications legislation a couple of years ago, NSBA was there lobbying to make sure the law included a plan so schools and libraries can afford to provide Internet access, distance learning, and other technologies.

When the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) began drafting the regulations to put the e-rate into effect, NSBA lobbyists were there to make sure the e-rate would provide a deep enough discount and to ensure that schools could use the discount for a wide variety of services with few limitations.

NSBA and other education groups were key players in the FCC's negotiations with the telecommunications industry and utility regulators to come up with a plan to finance the e-rate that all parties agreed to.

And now that the e-rate is under attack, NSBA is there, working with a coalition of education groups, to make sure it is not held hostage in a "telecommunications war" as long distance and local phone companies fight over market share.

Since NSBA and five other education groups launched the "Save the E-Rate Campaign" last month, school officials from across the country generated 10,000 letters to members of Congress, the FCC, and telecommunications companies to support full funding for the e-rate.

Despite earlier statements from the FCC that it would provide up to \$2.25 billion a year for the e-rate discounts, first-year funding now is likely to be in the range of \$1.75 billion.

Schools and libraries that have applied for the e-rate have requested a total of \$2.02 billion, and the Schools and Libraries Corp. (SLC) is carefully reviewing all the applications to make sure that the discounts are